

# Emergency Responder

WASHINGTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION



WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT

January-February 2002

## Looking back: Nisqually Earthquake one year later

One year after the magnitude 6.8 Nisqually Earthquake struck Washington state, disaster recovery work has made substantial progress to help thousands of state residents toward recovery, state and federal officials said.

The largest quake to hit the state in more than a half century, Nisqually caused widespread damage. In all, 24 counties and 25 Indian reservations were included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration issued by President Bush on March 1, 2001.

"Nisqually Earthquake recovery efforts have been considerably larger than any previous state disaster," said Glen Woodbury, director of the Washington Emergency Management Division.

"Excellent cooperation from our Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) partners has allowed us to make good progress in the first 12 months of recovery. We are on track to complete recovery work by the 2005 federal deadline."

"Two goals in our recovery are to ensure Washington residents receive the disaster aid to which they are entitled, and to rebuild our damaged homes, public buildings and communities to better withstand future earthquakes and disasters," Woodbury said.

FEMA Regional Director John Pennington said Washington's disaster declaration "was one of the fastest in agency history and enabled victims to begin receiving financial aid only days after the earthquake."

Pennington said the recovery program already had obligated funds for 82 percent of the public



Although the Nisqually Earthquake of 2001 left substantial damage in areas such as Seattle's Pioneer Square, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reports funds have been obligated for 82 percent of the public facilities that are eligible for state and federal disaster aid. (FEMA photo)

## First round HMGP Project recommendations

In the first round of the Nisqually Earthquake Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, 13 eligible projects have been forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for final review and approval. Projects recommended by the state's review committee are:

- Clark College, Clark County – Structural Seismic Retrofit.
- Douglas County – Sand Canyon Floodway Stabilization.
- City of Aberdeen Fire Department, Grays Harbor – Headquarters Fire Station
- Onalaska School District, Lewis County – Retrofit High School/Red Cross Shelter.

*Continued on page 2—*

*Continued on page 4—*

## EMD reorganizes

A new Emergency Management Division organization that emphasizes hazard mitigation and upgrades disaster recovery programs was announced Feb. 1.

"We made the changes in order to do our job better, not because we needed to drastically improve our service delivery," said Glen Woodbury, division director.

"Over the past year, EMD has prepared an excellent hazard analysis, and I want to use that information to set the priorities for our emergency management programs."

Woodbury said hazard mitigation will have a primary emphasis in EMD emergency programs, and the disaster recovery program will be improved by making it an integral part of the response program.

EMD's new unit organization will be as follows:

- **Mitigation, Analysis and Planning Unit.** This unit will have the mitigation section, including the earthquake program; and the analysis and plans section. The unit manager is Terry Egan.
- **Policy, Programs and Training Unit.** This unit will have the policy and programs section that includes EMPG/SLA, terrorism, Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, hazardous materials, Tri-Cities special hazards, legislative liaison and Emergency Management Council coordinator. The unit also will include the training section that houses our training and public education programs. The unit manager is Jim Schoonover.
- **Response and Recovery Unit.** The unit will include sections for emergency operations, telecommunications, public assistance, and individual assistance. The unit manager is Diane Offord.
- **E911 Unit.** Unaffected by the reorganization, the unit will continue to have a customer service section. Unit Manager is Bob Oenning.

*A diagram of the new organization is at [www.wa.gov/wsem/](http://www.wa.gov/wsem/).*

## Looking back: Nisqually Earthquake one year later

*Continued from page 1*

facilities that are eligible for state and federal disaster aid.

A total of 41,414 persons registered for Nisqually disaster aid. The registrations were more than three times the number of any previous disaster in Washington.

The following is an outline of the Nisqually recovery program through Feb. 15, 2002:

- FEMA has approved \$52.6 million for temporary housing assistance and minimal repair grants.
- Inspectors completed 37,234 damage verifications in the declared counties.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved 6,253 loans totaling \$83.4 million for homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations.
- The Public Assistance Program, serving more than 300 public and non-profit agencies and Indian tribes, estimates it will obligate \$75 million for more than 1,800 eligible repair projects.
- The Individual and Family Grant program approved \$3.3 million for residents affected by the quake. Grants assist with serious disaster-related needs and necessary expenses not covered by insurance or other disaster programs.
- Washington expects the Nisqually Earthquake disaster assistance to fund \$21.6 million in hazard mitigation grants to help communities and public agencies reduce hazard vulnerability and to avoid future disaster damages.

As of Feb. 15, 2002, the total number of applicants, the assistance approved for temporary assistance repair grants, and low-interest disaster loans for designated counties are as follows:

Benton 47; \$62,466; \$40,500.  
Chelan 115; \$150,074; \$83,200.  
Clallam 132; \$137,504; \$73,800.  
Clark 199; \$219,479; \$206,800.  
Cowlitz 151; \$298,445; \$321,500.  
Grays Harbor 2,089; \$3,678,352; \$2,454,800.

Island 117; \$147,727; \$171,600.  
Jefferson 99; \$124,599; \$181,700.  
King 16,318; \$19,918,890; \$41,928,300  
Kitsap 2,666; \$3,262,005; \$4,770,600  
Kittitas 110; \$120,004; \$74,800.  
Lewis 1,226; \$1,864,209; \$2,182,300.  
Mason 802; \$1,085,412; \$1,207,900.  
Pacific 234; \$463,076; \$235,400.  
Pierce 8,485; \$11,943,806;  
\$12,091,300.  
Skagit 402; \$479,711; \$896,200.  
Skamania 7; \$8,859; \$3,000  
Snohomish 1,530; \$1,319,433;  
\$1,874,400  
Thurston 5,433; \$5,950,579;  
\$13,818,000  
Wahkiakum 32; \$58,823; \$53,700  
Whatcom 711; \$778,467; \$441,500  
Yakima 457; \$618,912; \$347,500

## Seismic committee eyes new earthquake policies

In the 12 months since the Nisqually earthquake, the Seismic Safety Committee has taken several steps designed to help the state reduce its vulnerabilities to earthquakes.

The committee voted Feb. 7 to recommend support for House Bill 1555 that would upgrade state building codes, particularly in the area of seismic regulations. Supported by Gov. Gary Locke, the bill would establish a new state building code based on uniform international codes and standards of the International Code Council Inc. A 50-47 House vote passed the measure on Feb. 19 and sent it on to the Senate.

The seismic committee's new Information and Technology Subcommittee will assess and recommend improvements to increase the survivability of the state's communications infrastructure in future seismic events. The subcommittee also will make recommendations to enhance the use of information technology to improve accessibility, collection and dissemination of operational seismic data.

The seismic committee also is examining how to fund the state's growing network of seismic monitoring stations.

## Partners in Preparedness Conference coming up

Bio-terrorism response and lessons learned from Nisqually Earthquake of 2001 will be two of the major topics at the sixth annual Partners in Preparedness Conference April 2-3 at Bellevue's DoubleTree Hotel.

"This year's conference carries even greater weight in the wake of the tragic events of Sept. 11," said Barb Graff, emergency preparedness manager in the city of Bellevue.

"The conference has a wide range of seminar topics, focusing on preparedness, response, and recovery activities for the whole spectrum of hazards."

Featured speakers will include Susan Hutchinson, news anchor for KIRO-TV in Seattle; Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg, adjutant general of the Washington National Guard and director of the Washington Military Department; and Dr. Peter Ward, of the National Science and Technology Council.

The council is expected to attract more than 400 representatives from government and non-profit agencies, businesses and schools as well as emergency management volunteers and professionals.

Conference sponsors are the Washington Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department, Washington State Emergency Management Association, American Red Cross, Puget Sound Energy, Puget Sound Energy and Seattle Public Utilities.

Registrations can be made by mail, phone, fax, email or online to the Washington State University Conferences and Professional Programs; P.O. Box 645222; Pullman, WA 99164-5222; (800) 942-4978 or (509) 335-3530; fax (509) 335-0945; email <wsuconf@wsu.edu>; or online <<http://capps.wsu.edu/emergencyprep>>.

Costs are \$195 for registrations made by March 1, \$245 for registrations made by March 22, and \$345 after March 22.



Torrential rains and warm temperatures in early January led to urban flooding in several Washington communities including the Taylor Road area of Bremerton. The road was cut by the flood waters of Chico Creek, isolating 22 homes. (Photo by Eric Tucker).

## Emergency management legislation update

Bills to expand Emergency Management Council membership and to address new anti-terrorist threats passed the House Feb. 16. The measures were:

- House Bill 2411, which awaits Senate floor action, would exempt records dealing with preventing or responding to terrorism from the state's Public Disclosure Law. Proposed by Gov. Gary Locke and Atty. Gen. Christine Gregoire, the bill would protect records concerning terrorism prevention, mitigation or response. It would exempt from disclosure vulnerability assessments of inventories of potentially dangerous materials and the communications codes or deployment plans of law enforcement or response personnel. HB 2411 would protect intelligence information and investigation records that federal and international law enforcement agencies share with state and local law enforcement agencies. The bill also would protect computing, telecommunications and network security records that include security or disaster records and risk assessments as well as designs, maps or security codes of such telecommunications facilities.

- Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2385, which is scheduled for

Senate floor action, would expand Emergency Management Council (EMC) membership. The measure would add four non-voting legislators and a representative of local health agencies as well as allow the governor to appoint more members as needed.

- Engrossed House Bill 2319, which has received Senate committee approval, would expand state emergency planning requirements. The bill requires the state Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to include an analysis of the threat of conventional, radiological, biological and chemical attacks by enemies of the United States. EHB 2319 also requires state planning for chemical, biological and radiological substances and directs the EMC to assess state preparedness for attacks involving weapons with those substances.

- Substitute House 2853, which is in a Senate committee, would direct the Washington Military Department, in coordination with other public and private agencies, to research and develop a plan to identify infrastructure that is critical to regional economic stability and security. The report is to be submitted to the governor and Legislature by Dec. 1, 2002.

## Personnel

**Fran Cunningham**, who currently is assigned to the public assistance section of the Disaster Recovery Office in Olympia, was recognized Jan. 31 for five years of state service.

**Dan Staber**, terrorism program manager in the Policy, Programs and Training Unit, was honored Jan. 31 for five years of state service.

**Sandy Bigelow** was recognized Jan. 31 for her five years of state service. She was named secretary senior Jan. 3 in the Policy, Programs and Training Unit.

**Maillian Uphaus**, programs section manager in the Policy, Programs and Training Unit, was honored Jan. 31 for her 15 years of state service.

**Max Messman**, Southwest Region liaison, received recognition Jan. 31 for his 15 years of state service.

**Catherine Bartholomew** was appointed financial coordinator in the E911 Unit on Feb. 1. She had served in her position as a temporary employee since September 2001.

**James Gee** was named Budget Program Specialist 3 in the Disaster Recovery Unit Jan. 3. He has worked in the private sector and served in his budget position as a temporary employee in 2001.

**Tim Palmer** was selected Feb. 14 as the new EMD Automation Section supervisor. He joined EMD in mid-2001 as the division's Information Systems Network Manager.

**Dianna Staley** was appointed EMD

legislative liaison and Emergency Management Council coordinator effective March 1. She previously worked in a project position in the Individual Assistance Program.

**Michelle Sabin** has been named as the program assistant in the terrorism program in the Policy, Programs and Training unit. She had been serving in the position for the past several months as a temporary employee.

**Ken Wolf**, who has served as an Emergency Management Division duty officer since November 1995, will begin a one-year leave of absence March 1 to be a policy analyst with the Office of Homeland Security in the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

## HMGP Project

*Continued from page 1*

- City of Bellevue, King County – City Hall Addition, Seismic Improvements
- King County – Cedar River High Priority Buyout.
- Highline Water District, King County – Reservoir Seismic Retrofit.
- King County Water District #90 – Seismic Retrofit of Steel Water Storage Reservoir #1.
- Lakehaven Utility District, King County – Reservoir Seismic Retrofit.
- City of Seattle, King County –

Queen Anne Drive Bridge – Seismic Retrofit.

- City of South Bend, Pacific County – New Fire Station and City Hall.
- Pend Oreille (County) Public Utility District #1 – Electric Utility Overhead Power Line.
- LaConner School District #311, Skagit County – Auditorium/Cafeteria/Elementary/Gymnasium Seismic Upgrade.

## HMGP Second Round

The second round of the Nisqually Earthquake HMGP process has begun with the receipt of Letters of Intent for projects and hazard mitigation planning. Applications will be sent to eligible applicants in March.

### *Emergency Responder*

Jan.-Feb 2002. Published by the Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department.

**Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg**,  
**The Adjutant General**

**Glen Woodbury**, Director

**Rob Harper**, **Mark Clemens**, **Penelope Cassidy**, Editors

WMD is an equal opportunity employer. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons of disability, persons over 40 years of age, and disabled and Vietnam-era veterans are encouraged to apply for all positions. The *Emergency Responder* is available in alternative formats upon request. For more information, call Rob Harper at (800) 562-6108, ext. 7005; (253) 512-7298 TDD; or email him at <r.harper@emd.wa.gov>.



Washington Military Department  
**Emergency Management Division**  
Camp Murray, WA 98430-5122

FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Washington State  
Department of Printing

The Washington Emergency Management Division, including the State Emergency Operations Center, is located in Building 20 on Camp Murray, which is at exit 122 on Interstate 5 south of Tacoma, Washington.